

Institute for Development and Human Rights - IDDH

Throughout more than two decades of work, the Institute for Development and Human Rights (IDDH) has built its identity and mission upon an ethical commitment to promoting human dignity, socio-environmental justice, sustainable development, and participatory democracy through Human Rights Education and advocacy within national and international human rights protection systems.

This Charter of Principles expresses the ethical, political, and methodological foundations that guide our actions.

1. Human rights as a horizon of transformation

IDDH recognizes human rights as universal, indivisible, and interdependent. We advocate for their realization as the foundation for building just, democratic, inclusive, and sustainable societies, focusing on overcoming structural inequalities, including those of gender, race, class, territory, and generation.

2. Education as a political and emancipatory practice

Our pedagogy is dialogical, critical, and inspired by the tradition of the Brazilian educator Paulo Freire. We understand Human Rights Education as a continuous process of training for action, listening and dialogue for advocacy, and critical knowledge for social transformation.

3. Strategic advocacy grounded in listening and collective construction

We develop methodologies rooted in the lived experiences of society, connecting local realities to international mechanisms. We believe in the power of collective action as a path toward strengthening democracy and global justice.

4. Decentralization and democratization of access to information and participation

We are committed to creating accessible, innovative, and inclusive educational resources, methodologies, and materials that facilitate understanding and engagement with human rights protection systems. We promote the leadership of defenders, educators, youth, civil society organizations, and social movements across all regions of Brazil, Latin America, and the entire Global South.

5. Connection between knowledge, territories, and network articulation

Our actions are structured through articulation with diverse networks, movements, and institutions. We understand that the challenges of defending human rights require ethical and strategic alliances, built with respect for diversity, autonomy, and the timeline of each

collective process. We value territories as spaces of life, culture, and resistance, and we respect the ancestry, traditional knowledge, and ways of life of indigenous peoples and traditional communities. We view them as fundamental pillars for tackling the ecological crisis, preserving the environment, and achieving any ideal of sustainability.

6. Commitment to youth and future generations

Youth are the protagonists of our present and of the construction of more just, ethical, and sustainable futures. Therefore, we invest in active listening to their voices, political training, and strengthening their capacity to advocate, imagine, and build other possible worlds.

7. Commitment to gender equality

We adopt gender equity as a structural principle of our work, cross-cutting all other principles. We recognize that gender inequalities do not exist in isolation, but intertwine with social markers such as race, class, generation, and sexuality, producing distinct forms of oppression and social exclusion. We act to overcome the violence that disproportionately impacts women, trans people, travestis, and non-binary individuals, strengthening their voices and leadership in building more just and plural societies.

8. Culture and art as dimensions of politics and memory

We value art as an expression of the struggle for rights, the plurality of voices, and collective memory. Culture is, for us, a powerful symbolic territory for awareness-raising, denunciation, and the construction of stories that resist, transform, strengthen, and drive the fight for human rights.

9. Sustainability

We believe in and promote a concept of sustainable development that considers the full spectrum of social, economic, and environmental complexity. We embrace this development as a human right that calls for a reinterpretation of diverse areas and activities of life, as well as other rights, through the lenses of **climate justice** and **intergenerational justice**. We understand that realizing this right requires a just transition grounded in the principle of common responsibilities. Furthermore, we believe that such duties are not confined to States, but are shared by humanity in all its socio-economic complexity, with greater contributions expected from those with greater capacities and historical responsibility.

10. Mainstreaming and socio-environmental justice

We acknowledge that environmental and climate crises do not affect everyone equally. We adopt socio-environmental justice as a cross-cutting lens across all our work, connecting environmental protection with the fight against environmental racism and the defense of historically marginalized communities and territories. We understand that there are no Human Rights without a balanced environment, just as there is no sustainability without

social, gender, and racial justice. Moreover, we believe that any form of environmental action must be grounded in the rights to access environmental information, public participation in ecological decision-making, and environmental justice.

11. Non-regression

We hold an unrestricted commitment to the progressive realization of human rights, in compliance with the principle of non-regression. We categorically reject any weakening, repeal, or dilution of laws, public policies, hard-won human rights, and established standards of ecological and territorial protection. We understand that the climate emergency demands the continuous advancement and strengthening of socio-environmental safeguards, prohibiting state or corporate decisions that result in increased vulnerability for populations and ecosystems.

12. Transparency, Integrity and Anti-Corruption

We embrace integrity and ethics as non-negotiable values for a healthy democracy guided by human rights. We repudiate and combat corruption, influence peddling, money laundering, the squandering or misuse of public assets in all forms and the acceptance of any form of bribery or kickback, whether public or private, viewing them as instruments that deepen socio-economic and environmental inequalities. We understand that combating these practices is only effective when anchored in genuine transparency, accountability and social control. To this end, informational freedom in both its active and passive dimensions, the strengthening of independent journalism, the guarantee of reporting and investigation mechanisms, active citizen participation in public affairs, and a robust civic space allowing the coexistence of all these elements are indispensable. We commit to conducting our activities and influencing those of our suppliers and partners always in line with these principles and toward building a diverse and plural democracy guided by them.